

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, line 1, please include the following new paragraph:

--This application is a continuation of U.S. Application 10/195,933, filed on July 17, 2002, which is a divisional of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/503,696, filed on February 14, 2000. --

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-25.

Please add the following new claims:

26. (New) A color-enhanced crumb rubber comprising:
a rubber substrate; and
a latex-based colorant, said latex-based colorant comprising
a pigment; and
a latex binder, said latex binder comprising an elastomeric latex selected from the group consisting of natural rubber, synthetic rubber, and a mixture thereof, wherein said elastomeric latex forms lattices or colloidal dispersions of polymeric material in a water-based system.
27. (New) The color-enhanced crumb rubber according to claim 26, wherein said synthetic rubber is selected from the group consisting of styrene butadiene rubber, nitrile rubber, butyl rubber, polychloroprene rubber, and ethylene-propylene rubber.
28. (New) The color-enhanced crumb rubber according to claim 26, wherein said pigment comprises an opacifier.
29. (New) The color-enhanced crumb rubber according to claim 28, wherein said opacifier is selected from the group consisting of titanium oxide, zinc oxide, zinc sulfate, and barium sulfate.